

What is Claimed Is:

1. A method of treating vascular depression comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a cholinesterase inhibitor, in free form or in pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.
2. A method according to Claim 1 for treating late-onset vascular depression.
3. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the cholinesterase inhibitor is rivastigmine tartrate (Exelon[®]), donepezil hydrochloride (Aricept[®]) or galanthamine hydrobromide (Reminyl[®]).
4. A method according to Claim 3 wherein the cholinesterase inhibitor is rivastigmine tartrate (Exelon[®]).
5. A method according to Claim 4 wherein rivastigmine tartrate (Exelon[®]) is administered at a daily dosage of between 3 mg and 12 mg.
6. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the cholinesterase inhibitor is rivastigmine which is administered transdermally in free base form.
7. A method according to Claim 6 wherein rivastigmine is administered at a dose of 9 mg in a transdermal patch of ~5 cm², once every day.
8. A method according to Claim 6 wherein rivastigmine is administered at a dose of 18 mg in a transdermal patch of ~10 cm², once every day.
9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent and a therapeutically effective amount of: 1) a cholinesterase inhibitor; and 2) an anti-depressant, said cholinesterase inhibitor and anti-depressant being in free form or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.
10. A composition according to Claim 9 wherein the cholinesterase inhibitor is selected from rivastigmine tartrate (Exelon[®]), donepezil hydrochloride (Aricept[®]) and galanthamine hydrobromide (Reminyl[®]).
11. A composition according to Claim 10 wherein the cholinesterase inhibitor is rivastigmine tartrate (Exelon[®]).

12. A composition according to Claim 11 wherein the rivastigmine tartrate (Exelon[®]) is present in an amount between 3 mg and 12 mg.
13. A systemic transdermal pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 9 wherein the cholinesterase inhibitor is rivastigmine in free base form.
14. A composition according to Claim 13 wherein rivastigmine is present in an amount of 9 mg in a transdermal patch of ~5 cm².
15. A composition according to Claim 13 wherein rivastigmine is present in an amount of 18 mg in a transdermal patch of ~10 cm².
16. A composition according to Claim 9 wherein the anti-depressant is selected from SSRI anti-depressants, SNRI anti-depressants, MAO inhibitor anti-depressants, tricyclic anti-depressants, Wellbutrin[®] and Remeron[®].
17. A composition according to Claim 9 wherein the cholinesterase inhibitor is selected from rivastigmine tartrate (Exelon[®]), donepezil hydrochloride (Aricept[®]) and galanthamine hydrobromide (Reminyl[®]) and the anti-depressant is selected from Paxil[®], Prozac[®], Zoloft[®], Celexa[®], Lexapro[®], Effexor[®], Nardil[®], Parnate[®], amitriptyline, Norpramin[®], Wellbutrin[®] and Remeron[®].
18. A composition according to Claim 17 wherein the cholinesterase inhibitor is rivastigmine tartrate (Exelon[®]) and the anti-depressant is selected from Paxil[®], Prozac[®], Zoloft[®], Celexa[®], Lexapro[®], Effexor[®], Nardil[®], Parnate[®], amitriptyline, Norpramin[®], Wellbutrin[®] and Remeron[®].
19. A composition according to Claim 18 wherein the rivastigmine tartrate (Exelon[®]) is present in an amount between 3 mg and 12 mg.
20. A method of treating vascular depression comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a composition according to Claim 9.
21. A method according to Claim 20 for treating late-onset vascular depression.
22. A method of treating vascular depression comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a composition according to Claim 10.

23. A method of treating vascular depression comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a composition according to Claim 11.
24. A method of treating vascular depression comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a composition according to Claim 12.
25. A method of treating vascular depression comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a composition according to Claim 13.
26. A method of treating vascular depression comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a composition according to Claim 14.
27. A method of treating vascular depression comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a composition according to Claim 15.
28. A method of treating vascular depression comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a composition according to Claim 16.
29. A method of treating vascular depression comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a composition according to Claim 17.
30. A method of treating vascular depression comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a composition according to Claim 18.
31. A method of treating vascular depression comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a composition according to Claim 19.
32. A commercial package comprising a composition according to Claim 9 together with instructions for simultaneous, separate or sequential use thereof in the treatment of vascular depression.